

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Tuesday January 12, 2021 3:00pm – 4:30pm

1. Call to Order.

2. Roll Call

2.1. Voting Board Members –

John Dewhirst (Dist. 3)
David Divoky (At Large)
John Ewald (At Large)
Mike Farrell (At Large)
Bob McCarty (Dist. 5) (Chair)
Darrell Olson (At Large)

x
x
x

Robert Putnam (Dist. 1)
Mary Rollins (Dist. 2)
John Tam
Shawn Tobin (At Large)
Steve Yandl (Dist. 4) (Notes)

x
x
x
x

2.2. Staff (Parks and other County Departments or agencies) – Sharon Swan (meeting host), Tom Teigen, Carol Ohlfs, Tammy Dunn (ex officio), Tyler Allen, Rose Intveld,

2.3. Guests –

3. Review Minutes of November 2020. No changes needed and the minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Public Hearings/Meetings

4.1. Sharon Swan announced an advisory group meeting planned for January 13, regarding the shooting park. Thomas Hartzell would be hosting. Several board members expressed a desire to participate.

5. Oral Requests from the Audience/Correspondence

6. General Business

6.1. Identification of new chair, vice chair and secretary and vote to approve.

6.1.1. Bob McCarty to be the chairman.

6.1.2. Mike Farrell to the vice chairman.

6.1.3. Steve Yandl to be the recording secretary with backup from Tammy Dunn.

6.2. Boards and Commissions – All current board members needing to view the PowerPoint training on boards and commissions have now seen it.

6.3. Reviewed and discussed the mission statement for the parks advisory board and associated county code references. We also reviewed and discussed the table showing term status for all present board members. Sharon indicated that it appears John Ewald, if willing, could continue to participate as a member, past his term limit, until a replacement for the at large position was found and approved.

6.4. New park planner, Carol Ohlfs, introduced herself, provided a brief bio and mentioned projects she was working on.

7. Reports from the Staff/Status Reports

7.1. Construction Projects

7.1.1. Sharon shared pictures of the Whitehorse campground, highlighting drainage work now being completed.

7.1.2. Flowing Lake – Pictured shared of the entrance as it looks now.

7.1.3. Wenberg – Picture of the restroom/concession building being replaced so that it is ADA compliant.

7.2. Design Projects

7.2.1. Meadowdale – Project plan (drawing) shared. Sharon shared what the current challenges were and what the next steps will be once details are worked out with the railroad and other challenges are met.

7.2.2. Kayak Point day use area – In the permitting process. Making sure details are worked out with the county for shoreline development. Currently looking at obtaining grants.

7.2.3. Oso slide memorial –

7.2.3.1. Some nice work has been done in coordination with the Timber Framers Guild.

7.2.3.2. A new flagpole is being erected since the makeshift flagpole that was a surviving tree was in danger of toppling. The flying flag has symbolic importance. Once some donated solar power and lighting is installed the flag can be flown again.

7.2.4. Carousel Ranch – Drawing shared and Sharon provided an update.

7.2.5. Corcoran Memorial. – Public discussion meeting was held and went well.

7.2.6. Heybrook Ridge – Drawing shared and project described. Trail will be an ADA accessible asphalt path. Shawn Tobin asked about connections to other recreation areas (trail system) and response was that this trail would be an isolated loop.

7.3. Preferred Plan Projects

7.3.1. Shooting park – Reminder on the advisory group meeting coming on the 13th.

7.4. Long Range Planning.

7.4.1. Sharon spoke to the level of participation on the survey to obtain input on the mission of parks and tourism. More input is probably warranted.

7.4.2. Sharon asked if there was interest from board members to participate in upcoming discussions on long range planning.

7.4.2.1. John Ewald

7.4.2.2. Bob McCarty

7.4.2.3. Shawn Tobin

7.4.2.4. John Tam

7.4.3. Sharon announced a new round for Conservation Futures Grants was upcoming earlier than usual.

8. Park Director's Time.

8.1. Discussed concept of the creation of a larger department to be known as 'Department of Conservation and Natural Resources'.

8.1.1. Attorneys working on matching up code issues to integrate various departments such as Parks, Recreation and Tourism with Surface Water Management, Agriculture etc.

8.1.2. Meetings beginning between key personnel in each of the departments. Transition will likely take a year. Parks, Recreation and Tourism would still exist as a department and our board would remain as it is.

8.2. Shared status of the Fair Park, its current availability as an emergency center and probable scenarios on how it might emerge as the site of a county fair again as COVID-19 restrictions ease.

8.3. Discussed how planning was going to comply with the newly instituted two-phase plan from the governor's office on safely getting out of COVID restrictions.

8.4. It was a terribly busy summer for parks because so many citizens are very hungry for recreation in this restricted time. Staffing is an issue because of COVID but staff has done well in serving the public even while understaffed.

8.5. Tom said he had visited Lord Hill Park incognito (grandchildren in tow) and observed challenges to be met.

8.6. Tom, along with John Ewald, discussed meetings being held monthly to manage use of our region's popular lakes. Better control of boating recreation, specifically new boats designed to create a large wake, so damage to the shoreline and compromises to the safety of others are minimized.

8.6.1. Use is more intense than in the past, particularly with the new wake producing boats.

8.6.2. Hours of use and water level are considerations that need to be part of the equation.

9. Messages from the Board. Around the Table

9.1. John Dewhirst

9.2. David Divoky

9.3. Tammy Dunn

9.3.1. Tammy was called to another meeting, but Tyler Allen filled in. He reports that they are focused on how sports can be re-introduced as we work our way out of COVID-19 restrictions and that has been the department's main activity.

9.4. John Ewald

9.4.1. He indicated most of what he wanted to say was covered in the lake management discussion.

9.5. Mike Farrell

9.5.1. Mike announced that a week from Thursday he would be testifying in Olympia asking for consideration of a possible sales tax as a source for parks funding.

9.6. Bob McCarty

9.6.1. Bob has a new job at 'Coastal Farm and Home Supply' in Monroe. He has suggested to management that they consider a location near the potential new shooting park to capitalize on sales of ammo etc.

9.7. Darrell Olson

9.8. Robert Putnam

9.9. Mary Rollins

9.9.1. Expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discover what the county was doing during this challenging time.

9.10. John Tam

9.10.1. John is enjoying his experience on the board but feels he is still in the discovery/learning phase.

9.11. Shawn Tobin

9.11.1. Shawn knows it would be difficult but would like to see us do more than two 'tour' meetings per year so we could all see parks we might not otherwise visit.

9.12. Steve Yandl

9.12.1. Steve shared some issues having to do with online record searches from the county auditor's page. Most legal fields are being left blank which has the result of shielding many documents from discovery. This is probably a result of staffing issues related to COVID. John Ewald has also encountered the issue and contacted the ombudsman and others. Steve will send information to the auditor's office.

10. Adjournment

ADA Notice: Snohomish County facilities are accessible. Accommodations for persons with disabilities, sign language interpreters and communications materials in alternate form will be provided upon advance request. Please make arrangements one week prior to the hearing by calling the Park Department office, 425-388-6602.